

Appl. No. 10/690,147  
Amendment dated January 3, 2007  
Reply to Office Action dated December 22, 2006

## 1 AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### 2 Complete Listing of All Claims and Their Status

3 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this  
4 application:

5 Claims 1-4 (canceled).

1 5 (currently amended): [The control lever assembly as recited in claim 4, in which] A  
2 hand-operated jointed control lever assembly comprising:

- 3 (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released  
4 position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum  
5 surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;
- 6 (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface  
7 proximate said forward edge portion, said first fulcrum surface and said second  
8 fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement without a pivot axle  
9 joining said lever arm to said lever body when said forward edge portion is  
10 engaged under said lip; and
- 11 (c) tensioning means for applying a contraction force between said first fulcrum  
12 surface and said second fulcrum surface that biases said first and second  
13 fulcrum surfaces into mating engagement; said tensioning means comprising:
  - 14 i. a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum  
15 surfaces, said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said  
16 first end being secured to said lever arm; and
  - 17 ii. [said tensioning spring is] a compression coil spring interposed between  
18 said second end of said tensioning cable and said lever body, said  
19 compression coil spring being disposed within a cavity formed within said  
20 lever body [, and] with said tensioning cable [passes] passing axially  
21 through said coil spring.

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1       Claim 6 (canceled).

1       7 (currently amended): [The control lever assembly as recited in claim 6, in which] A  
2       hand-operated jointed control lever assembly, said assembly comprising:

3       (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released  
4       position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum  
5       surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;  
6       (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface  
7       proximate said forward edge portion, said first fulcrum surface and said second  
8       fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement without a pivot axle  
9       joining said lever arm to said lever body when said forward edge portion is  
10       engaged under said lip; said first and second fulcrum surfaces being  
11       respectively cylindrically concave and convex;  
12       (c) a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum surfaces,  
13       said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said first end being  
14       secured to said lever arm; and  
15       (d) [said tensioning spring is] a compression coil spring interposed between said  
16       second end of said tensioning cable and said lever body, said compression coil  
17       spring being disposed within a cavity formed within said lever body [, and] with  
18       said tensioning cable [passes] passing axially through said coil spring.